

soldiers at Bagram Air Base. On October 3, he was flown to Incirlik, Turkey, for medical treatment. He died of cardiac arrest en route to Turkey.

His family and friends remember him as a true leader—driven, determined, and deeply committed to his country and its cause. In a message to his colleagues at the Department of Transportation sent before he left for Afghanistan, Paul wrote, “Always there echoes in my mind: duty, honor, and country. Therefore, I will do my duty as God has given me light to see.”

LTC Paul Kimbrough is survived by his father, Major Kimbrough; his son, Paul Kimbrough, Jr.; his four brothers; and his sister. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Paul’s family and friends.

Paul Kimbrough’s resolve and his commitment to his country will not be forgotten. The mission continues in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we remain confident that Paul Kimbrough’s courage and sacrifice will have been given in a worthy cause.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Christopher Swisher, a fellow Nebraskan and staff sergeant in the United States Army. Sergeant Swisher was killed last week when his squadron was attacked while on a mission in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 26 years old.

Sergeant Swisher was one of thousands of brave American servicemen and women fighting in Iraq. Our soldiers confront danger everyday—their tremendous risks and sacrifices must never be taken for granted.

A Lincoln native, Sergeant Swisher was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. His life-long interest in the military led him to overcome a learning disability and embark on a successful career in the Army.

On the frontlines of the war in Iraq, Sergeant Swisher demonstrated the courage of a leader and an American hero. Before his deployment, Sergeant Swisher told his mother, Sharon; “I’m doing what I want to be doing because I’m protecting my family, my home, and my country.” In addition to his mother, Sergeant Swisher leaves behind a wife, Kristen; daughter, Alexandria; brother, Terry; and sister, Lisa. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SGT Christopher Swisher.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Springfield, VA. On September 7, 2003, a Muslim woman was stabbed in the back outside a Fairfax County shopping mall and called a “terrorist pig” by her assailant. The 47-year-old convert to Islam was treated at a local hospital for a 2 to 3-inch deep wound on her lower back.

I believe that Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MOTHER TERESA

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recalling and honoring the life and work of a physically tiny woman with an immeasurably large dedication to serving the poorest of the world’s poor. Known to the world as Mother Teresa, she fulfilled what she understood to be her vocation in the world—not as a saint, but as a human being flawed and prone to the same temptations as are we all in this Chamber. I greatly admire her faithfulness to her purpose, and her profound faith in the Maker of us all.

Mother Teresa was born in August 1910 in Albania and became a Roman Catholic nun while still a young woman. A teacher, she was assigned to a convent and school in Calcutta, where she discovered a material poverty that was scarcely believable. Whatever she had given up in dedicating her life to her vocation did not compare to the need she saw around her. She left the already demanding work of her convent to found the Missionaries of Charity, a religious order of women whose work in the world remains service to people who are abandoned, suffering, poor, and dying, wherever they may be found.

Today, when many in the world consider religious commitments as too often contentious and divisive rather than fruitful and unifying, we do well to ponder the 50 years of work by the Missionaries of Charity in more than 700 homes and shelters established in India, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The example they set for sacrificial giving of oneself can best be described by Mother Teresa’s own statement of her mission in this life:

My community is the poor. Their security is my own. My house is the house of the poor—not just the poor, but the poorest of the poor: those who are so dirty and full of germs that no one goes near them; those who do not go to pray because they are naked; those who do not eat because they do not have the strength; those who collapse on the sidewalks knowing they are about to die while the living walk by without even looking back; those who do not cry because they have no more tears left.

Many of the people served by Mother Teresa considered her to be a living

saint. But I find her all the more remarkable because she was human, fragile, and equipped with the same stubborn human nature we all struggle with when our virtue is tried. We may count ourselves blessed if we avoid what Mother Teresa told us is the greatest poverty—that of the heart. Like her, we must keep before us those “not only hungry for bread, but hungry for love; not only naked from lack of clothing, but naked of human dignity; not only homeless for a house, but homeless for understanding and for human respect.”

Mr. President, I ask that we who are privileged to serve in this body, along with all people of goodwill, join the world in remembering the life and example of one whose dedication to her duty became her love.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of modern history’s most caring and unconditionally loving people on the eve of her beatification. Through her work as a teacher and provider to the poor and suffering, Mother Teresa of Calcutta demonstrated the essence of what it means to love.

It was March of 2002 that I was humbled and privileged during a personal visit to the Nirmal Hriday, Pure of Heart, Home for the Dying Destitutes in Calcutta, started by Mother Teresa in 1952 to give hope and care to those with neither. Although Mother Teresa passed away 5 years earlier, the spirit of kindness and concern that nearly transcended human boundaries lived on in that small hospice, and showed on the faces of its volunteers, and shined in the smiles of nuns carrying on her work.

That day I was also honored to visit with Mother Teresa’s successor, Sister Nirmala. Sister Nirmala and I spoke briefly of the importance of continuing Mother Teresa’s work, and in some small way, I hope the recognition we provide will further that cause—that comfort, care, and love she gave unconditionally.

Born in 1910, Mother Teresa became a Roman Catholic nun at the age of 18. She began by teaching geography and history at St. Mary’s School in Calcutta, but became anxious to aid those outside of the convent. Twenty years later, she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious order based on attending to the impoverished and afflicted whom no one else served. Mother Teresa later turned her focus to the establishment of care programs for AIDS victims.

Although she was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Foundation for Hospice and Homecare’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1985, Mother Teresa felt most honored by the joy of providing comfort and care to those in need.

As her beatification by Pope John Paul II nears, we pause to reflect upon the example set forth by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa demonstrated true and unconditional love